

Council on Postsecondary Education Initiatives to Further the P-16 Agenda

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) is currently involved in several initiatives and projects that will empower P-16 efforts in the Commonwealth:

- **American Diploma Project:** The CPE, the KDE, postsecondary institutions, and business and labor representatives across the state in Phase 1 of the American Diploma Project, which developed nationally researched high school graduation standards in English and mathematics. The CPE approved a statewide standard of college readiness based on ADP standards. Kentucky joined the ADP Network of 21 states pledging to align high school graduation standards with postsecondary and workplace expectations, adopt a high school curriculum and assessment system that reflects these standards, and hold the K-12 and postsecondary systems accountable for the success of their students.
- **GEAR UP:** The CPE works with the KDE, postsecondary institutions, and school districts to administer a \$20 million federal initiative to encourage students as early as middle school to stay in school, study hard, and take a pre-college curriculum. GEAR UP schools provide academic enrichment, mentoring, counseling, scholarships, and other activities that improve performance and promote college going. Kentucky has been awarded a second six-year GEAR UP grant.
- **KEMTP:** The CPE oversees the Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program, a voluntary on-line diagnostic program created by the General Assembly in 2000. KEMTP provides feedback to high school students to ascertain their readiness for college-level mathematics. Its goal is to identify remedial needs early in the students' high school career and correct them on the path to postsecondary education.
- **High School Feedback Report:** The CPE and the KDE issue a biennial report to schools and districts providing useful information regarding their graduates' postsecondary education placement and performance. Working with ACT, Inc., the report includes ACT composite scores and sub-scores in English and mathematics and information on the proportion of students who return for a second year of college. It allows high schools to compare graduates' performance by postsecondary sector (public four-year institutions, public two-year institutions, and independent institutions).
- **Dual enrollment study:** The CPE is conducting a study of high school-college dual enrollment patterns as a basis for developing a consistent, statewide dual enrollment policy and funding model. The study documents the number and type of college courses taken by high school students and the effect that college course-taking while in high school has on subsequent postsecondary enrollment and success.
- **Teacher Quality Summit:** The CPE and the Council of Chief Academic Officers will sponsor the sixth annual Teacher Quality Summit on October 24-25, 2005. These summits convene the CAO's, deans of arts and sciences, and deans and chairs of teacher education programs at Kentucky's public and independent institutions to focus on improving the quality and supply of teachers and other educational leaders.
- **Educational Leadership Work Groups:** The CPE, in conjunction with the EPSB, is convening institutional and district representatives to address more effectively the preparation and professional development needs of Kentucky's school and district administrators. This work will result in changes in the education leadership programs in Kentucky that will directly address issues of educator quality.
- **Affordability study:** The CPE is completing an affordability study analyzing financial aid policies and practices to maximize participation, access, and success for all students. Preliminary results show that most students do not pay the full costs of attending college in Kentucky, although low-income independent students and adult and part-time learners face the highest financial hurdle at both two- and four-year public institutions.